Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

Therefore, what is needed is an efficient method and apparatus for creating alternate circuit paths which correspond to primary circuit paths. That is, what is desired is an efficient and accurate system which enables alternate circuit paths which are either nodal diverse <u>or</u> [[of]] link diverse, and do not include protected links, to be created.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with still another aspect of the present invention, a method for computing an alternate circuit path that corresponds to a primary circuit path that is defined between a start node and an end node of a network, and includes a first network element selected from a plurality of network elements, includes identifying the first network element as not <u>being</u> [[be]] accessible to the alternate circuit path. Such an identification may be made by a path routing algorithm. The method also includes creating the alternate circuit path using the routing algorithm such that the first network element is not included in the alternate circuit path while at least one other network element selected from the plurality of elements is included.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

Computing device 406 generally includes a processor 426 which is arranged to execute a routing algorithm 430. Although the routing algorithm 430 executed by processor 426 may be substantially any suitable routing algorithm, one particularly suitable routing algorithm is a shortest <u>path</u> [[past]] first (SPT) algorithm which may use circuit characteristics and constraints

to identify a shortest path between a specified starting node and a specified ending node. It should be appreciated, however, that an SPT algorithm is just one example of a suitable routing algorithm 430, and that routing algorithm 430 may be substantially any type of algorithm.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

Methods and apparatus for defining an alternate circuit path within a network ~~given nodal diverse or link diverse constraints~~ are <u>described</u> [[disclosed]]. According to one aspect of the present invention, a device for computing circuit paths between a first node and a second node within a network that has a plurality of elements includes a route generator and a list mechanism. The route generator computes a primary circuit path between the first node and the second node such that the primary circuit path includes a first element. The list mechanism identifies the first element as being inaccessible to an alternate circuit path. Using the list mechanism, the route generator computes an alternate circuit path that does not include the first element identified by the list mechanism. In one embodiment, the first element is a link. In another embodiment, the first element is a node.